SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ENCAPSULATING SOFTWARE COMPONENTS IN AN APPLICATION PROGRAM INTERFACE USING A PROXY OBJECT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method are disclosed whereby the lightweight components of the Swing application program interface (API) may be used to replace heavyweight components of the abstract windowing toolkit (AWT) in legacy applications. This replacement allows the user interface of the application to preserve a consistent look and feel across diverse platforms, such as Windows, Unix, OS/2, etc. A lightweight peer class is created, which emulates the interaction of objects created by the application with the former heavyweight peers – this avoids any need to modify the legacy software. A proxy class is also created, which intercepts events associated with the object and directs them to a lightweight component of the Swing API (rather than to the AWT). The proxy also establishes a parent-child relationship between the layout inhabited by the object and the Swing component, so that Swing draws over the image of the object created by the AWT.